

USSN 10/773,704

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, insert between the title and the first paragraph the following new paragraph:

This application is a continuation of application Serial No. 10/052,468 filed January 23, 2002, now U.S. Patent 6,769,696.

On page 37, replace the ABSTRACT with the following:

~~In a cylinder~~ Cylinder head gasket with a metallic gasket plate comprising a combustion chamber opening enclosed by a bead ~~which is elastically deformable in its height~~, and a stopper surrounding the ~~combustion chamber~~ opening and delimiting the deformation of the bead, the stopper being formed by elevations of a gasket sheet metal layer ~~of the gasket plate~~ which are obtained by deformation ~~thereof of this sheet metal layer~~, in order to obtain such a stopper ~~which is resistant to deformation~~, the stopper is designed such that in sections through the sheet metal layer along circular cylindrical surfaces coaxial with the ~~combustion chamber~~ opening the stopper respectively comprises a row of discrete elevations following one another in a circumferential direction of the ~~combustion chamber~~ opening and corresponding depressions located directly opposite these elevations ~~in the sheet metal layer~~, and in a plan view of the sheet metal layer in the area of the stopper, the total area occupied by the elevations is at least half of the total area of the stopper, and the shape of the elevations differs from the shape of circular arcs at least partially enclosing the ~~combustion chamber~~ opening.